

CLAIMS

1. A method of coupling a portable communications device (PCD) to a first network by way of a second network, the PCD normally in radio communication with the first network, the PCD being coupled to the first network by way of the second network when the PCD is out of radio communication with the first network, the method comprising:

coupling the PCD to the second network;  
causing the PCD to leave a first network mode and enter a second network mode;  
10 establishing a network connection with the first network by way of the second network; and  
entering into communication with the first network by way of the second network.

2. The method of claim 1 for coupling a pager to a first network by way of a second network, the pager normally in radio communication with the first network, the pager being coupled to the first network by way of the second network when the pager is out of radio communication with the first network, the method comprising:

coupling the pager to the second network;  
causing the pager to leave a first network mode and enter a second network mode;  
20 establishing a network connection with the first network by way of the second network; and  
entering into communication with the first network by way of the second network.

25 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the pager is a two-way pager, and

wherein entering into communication comprises entering into two-way communication with the first network by way of the second network.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
de-coupling the PCD from the second network upon ending  
5 communication therewith; and  
causing the PCD to leave the second network mode and enter the  
first network mode.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the PCD has a serial port, wherein  
coupling the PCD to the second network comprises:  
10 placing the PCD into a cradle having a serial port connector and a  
network connector so that the serial port of the <sup>PCD</sup>~~pager~~ is coupled with the serial port  
connector of the cradle; and  
coupling the network connector of the cradle to the second network,  
and wherein de-coupling the PCD from the second network comprises removing the PCD  
15 from the cradle.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the PCD has a serial port, and  
wherein coupling the PCD to the second network comprises:  
placing the PCD into a cradle having a serial port connector and a  
network connector so that the serial port of the pager is coupled with the serial port  
20 connector of the cradle; and  
coupling the network connector of the cradle to the second network.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein causing the PCD to enter the second  
network mode comprises causing the PCD to gain the attention of and establish control  
over a network communications device.

- 25 8. The method of claim 7 wherein causing the PCD to enter the second  
network mode comprises causing the PCD to gain the attention of and establish control

over a modem.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein causing the PCD to enter the second network mode comprises causing the PCD to gain the attention of and establish control over a network interface card.

5 10. The method of claim 1 wherein establishing the network connection comprises establishing a network connection with a base station of the first network by way of the second network.

10 11. The method of claim 1 wherein entering into communication comprises entering into two-way communication with the first network by way of the second network to send and receive information.

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